38. (canceled) A method for separating single stranded nucleic acid from double stranded nucleic acid, comprising the steps of:

contacting a mixture comprising both single stranded and double stranded nucleic acid with a first liquid comprising a chaotropic agent and a nucleic acid binding solid phase, wherein the first liquid has a composition such that the double stranded nucleic acid binds to the solid phase;

separating the solid phase from a supernatant containing the single stranded nucleic acid; and

contacting the supernatant with a second liquid comprising a second nucleic acid binding solid phase, in the presence of a chaotropic agent, a chelating agent and divalent positive ions, wherein the second liquid has a composition such that the resulting mixture of supernatant and second liquid allows for binding of the single stranded nucleic acid to the second solid phase.

39. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~38~~16, wherein the concentration of the divalent positive ions is the same as the concentration of the chelating agent.

40. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~38~~16, wherein the chelating agent is EDTA and the ions are Mg^{2+} ions.

41. (currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~38~~16, wherein the chaotropic agent is a guanidinium salt.

42. (canceled) The method according to Claim 41, wherein the guanidinium salt is guanidinium isothiocyanate.

43. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 42, wherein the second liquid has the constitution of a buffer prepared by dissolving about 120g guanidinium isothiocyanate in about 100ml 0.35M TRIS HCl (pH 6.4) and adding about 22ml 0.2 M

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